

# Easton Village Newsletter

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Issue 142

August 2016

### FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

What a year!! Weather, Brexit, a new Prime Minister and a DEFRA reshuffle, all before harvest! Three weeks ago, we were busy cutting our grass/wild flower margins for haylage. This is grass that has been cut for a day or two to wilt, then baled and wrapped in polythene and natural fermentation inside the bag preserves the grass as **haylage** - which retains 90% of the feed value of fresh grass.



Our rape was combined by the 20<sup>th</sup> July after being swathed 10 days earlier. There are 2 ways

of combining rape: one is to spray it off to kill the plant, so the pods ripen and then it is direct combined and the other is to swath it first (this a combine-like machine but it only cuts the rape and then puts it in a row behind the machine without threshing out the seed, which then sits on top of the stubble and dries out), which is what we decided to do. We have done it both ways in the past but have found swathing ripens the pods faster and more evenly. Yields were a little disappointing considering the cost to grow the crop, but this has been seen throughout the country because of the mild Winter and dull June. We hope to start the wheat harvest by the first week of August.



What will Brexit mean to farming is a huge question. The horticultural producers are really worried about what effect the restricted movement of migrant labour will have, which is relied upon to pick the vegetables etc. For more than 40 years UK farmers have relied on subsidies from the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to compete, but the referendum has created huge uncertainty about support for our industry and single market. Many in farming believe Brexit will bring greater opportunities in the short term, as a drop in Sterling has seen an improvement in our competitive position which has helped exports and price. Europe has tied us up in Red Tape which could make it impossible to continue farming. The EU is looking to not renew the license for Glyphosate so it could be banned within 2 years. It is used in many garden products (Round-up) and our farm would be unviable without it as it is invaluable in the battle against Blackgrass (BG).

I was asked a couple of questions about the countryside recently. One was what field operations were being made on the left hand side near the Railway Bridge. These 2 fields have been fallow since last Summer and have been busted to loosen the soils' compaction and then power-harrowed to create a finer soil profile to get the Blackgrass chitting so it could be sprayed off. I plan to do this several times and will then put it into Spring Wheat in April next year. This will yield less than Winter Wheat but allow me another 6 months of killing BG (no relation to the BFG!).



Have any of you noticed the 2 tone field of wheat between the Brampton Racecourse and Spittals roundabout, on the left? This field is all wheat but the lighter colour is Winter Wheat that is much riper than the more green wheat that was drilled much later (and consequently, it will be harvested several weeks later). Probably caught out by the weather, drilling was resumed when it got dry enough to get back on the land.

### CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST 2016

The national Ride, Drive and Stride event will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Sponsorship goes half to the participant's nominated church and half to the CHCT for the maintenance of other churches in the county. There is no set route; we welcome anybody who would like to take part. Please contact your village organiser, Roger Silcock (890455).



### EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 11th August 2016 at 8.00pm in St Peter's Church. The Agenda will be attached to the Parish Council notice board near the bus shelter a few days beforehand.

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR AUGUST

<p><b>Sunday 7th August (Trinity 11)</b>            09.30 COV Parish Communion (Rev N Bland)            10.45 KIM Family Service (Rev S Bowring)            10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev N Bland)            18.00 STO Evensong (Rev S Bowring)</p>	<p><b>Sunday 14th August (Trinity 12)</b>            09.30 TIL Family Service (Rev N Bland)            09.30 EAS Parish Communion (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson)            10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev N Bland)            16.30 SPA Messy Church (Rev N Bland)</p>
<p><b>Sunday 21st August (Trinity 13)</b>            09.30 COV Matins (Rev N Bland)            09.30 STO BCP Communion (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson)            10.45 KIM Matins (Rev R Lancaster)            10.45 SPA Parish Communion (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson)            11.00 BAR Family Service (Rev N Bland)            18.00 EAS Evensong (Rev N Bland)</p>	<p><b>Sunday 28th August (Trinity 14)</b>            09.30 TIL Parish Communion (Rev N Bland)            09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr M Baker)            10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev N Bland)            10.45 SPA Morning Worship (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson)            18.00 KIM Evensong (Rev N Bland)</p>



### New bus service coming to Easton

The CFT programme has been working with communities to review and re-design subsidised bus services to achieve financial savings through new local transport solutions.

A **new bus service to Huntingdon**, operating Monday to Friday will **start on Monday 25th July 2016**.

Departs Easton	10:58	Departs Huntingdon	14:00
Arrives Huntingdon	11:50	Arrives Easton	14:18

*\*Timetables will be available locally shortly.*

The new service replaces the following bus services which will be withdrawn from Easton (last week of operation 18th July):

400: Keyston – Kimbolton – Huntingdon	406: Kettering – Huntingdon
402: St Ives – Huntingdon	407: Peterborough – Huntingdon
403: Thrapston – Raunds – Huntingdon	408: St Neots – Huntingdon
404: Huntingdon – Bedford	409: Huntingdon – Great Gidding
405: Peterborough – Huntingdon	Circular

#### What are your alternatives?

- Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport (HACT) offers a pre-bookable, door-to-door service in your area. Their services can be used for shopping, appointments, visiting friends or relatives Monday to Friday.
- Travel to: Peterborough (Mon & Tue), St Neots (Thurs), Cambourne (Friday).

For more information please call HACT on 01480 411114 or email them at [contact@hact.gb.com](mailto:contact@hact.gb.com)

**The CFT Team:** [cft@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cft@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 0345 045 0675  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cft](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cft)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Ed Sloper**

**Car Boot Sale** – Advance notice that the Easton Fund and Social Committee is holding a Bring and Buy / Car Boot Sale on Bank Holiday Monday 29 August 2016. This event will be on the Easton Playing Field, subject to weather. You will get a better class of jumble in Easton, and hopefully take a cup of tea and purchase some cakes. More details will be circulated nearer the event. So declutter and start turning out the attic!

**Village Skip** – the week after, on Saturday 3 September a large skip will be available for one day only, situated near the Playing Field, for Easton residents to get rid of unwanted junk (plus anything that doesn't sell at the Car Boot Sale!). Assistance will be available to carry items to the skip. There are some restrictions on what can be placed in the skip and again, full details will be circulated nearer to the event.



**Family Fun Day** – unfortunately the Easton Family Fun Day will not be held this year, because of clashes with holidays. It will be back next year complete with "Toss the Welly".

**Barn Dance** - Fun for all the family. Suitable for ages 9 to 90. Come along with a picnic supper to "Strip the Willow" and do the "Virginia Reel" to the music of Parson's Nose. No previous skill or experience is required. This event is organised by Friends of France a local exchange group which is holding the Barn Dance on 1 October 2016 at Mandeville Hall in Kimbolton. Further details from Ed on 01480 891364.

**Copy deadline for the next newsletter will be Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016.**